

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) An aqueous dispersion containing suspended materials and a starch composition which functions as a clarifying aid in the aqueous dispersion, the starch composition made by cooking a starch for a time effective to gelatinize the starch, and combining the cooked starch with a polymer, the polymer containing anionic groups or potential anionic groups, the starch and the polymer being combined before adding the starch composition to the aqueous dispersion.

2. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 in which the anionic groups or potential anionic groups are acidic groups or salts of acidic groups or a combination of acidic groups and salts of acidic groups.

3. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 2 in which the acidic groups are one or more of the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid, salts of carboxylic acid, salts of sulfonic acid, and salts of phosphoric acid.

4. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of natural polymers, modified natural polymers, synthetic polymers, homopolymers of polyacrylates, homopolymers of polysulfonates, homopolymers of polyphosphates, copolymers of polyacrylates, copolymers of polysulfonates, and copolymers of polyphosphates.

5. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, polystyrenesulfonic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, guar and xanthan gums, anionic and amphoteric starch, and copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide.

6. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 in which the starch composition contains an aluminum compound prior to the cooking of the starch.

7. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 which comprises a furnish, the suspended materials including cellulosic fibers.

8. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 7 additionally comprising an inorganic colloid.

9. (Previously presented) The aqueous dispersion of claim 7 additionally comprising an aluminum compound.

Claims 10 - 67 (Canceled)

68. (New) A dry clarifying aid product comprising a dry mixture of starch and a polymer, the polymer containing anionic groups or potential anionic groups, the dry product being in a form that is suitable to be readily transported and stored, and the dry product being suitable to be mixed with a liquid to make a wet solution suitable for cooking and then adding to an aqueous dispersion containing suspended materials to function as a clarifying aid in the aqueous dispersion.

69. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 additionally comprising a pH adjuster mixed with the starch and the polymer.

70. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 additionally comprising an aluminum compound mixed with the starch and the polymer.

71. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 additionally comprising an inorganic colloid mixed with the starch and the polymer.

72. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 in which the anionic groups or potential anionic groups are acidic groups or salts of acidic groups or a combination of acidic groups and salts of acidic groups.

73. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 72 in which the acidic groups are one or more of the group consisting of carboxylic acid, sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid, salts of carboxylic acid, salts of sulfonic acid, and salts of phosphoric acid.

74. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of natural polymers, modified natural polymers, synthetic polymers, homopolymers of polyacrylates, homopolymers of polysulfonates, homopolymers of polyphosphates, copolymers of polyacrylates, copolymers of polysulfonates, and copolymers of polyphosphates.

75. (New) The dry clarifying aid product of claim 68 in which the polymer is one or more of the group consisting of polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, polystyrenesulfonic acid, carboxymethylcellulose, guar and xanthan gums, and copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide.